

February 25, 1976

the capitalizing of the whole chain of distribution clear out to where it is in the grocery cart and I certainly think that that is an error, and if 434 can correct this inequitable distribution of capital, I am all for 434. Let's lay it over a little bit and see if it doesn't do that.

SENATOR BURBACH: Is there any further discussion on laying over LB 434? Senator Schmit, you may close.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Mahoney, in his usual eloquence this morning drove it to new heights which many of us have seen here time after time after time. I hold in my hand a copy of LB 811 as amended which I gave Senator Mahoney and Senator Burrows a vote to raise from Committee this morning. You know what that bill provides for? It provides that an employee must be paid within seven days after the completion of his labor. Not a bad idea. A pretty good idea. You know why? So he can go down to the grocery store, to the chain store, to pay cash for his groceries, because if he doesn't get paid, he is not going to buy any groceries. Now he may go to Senator Hasebroock's grocery store and get some groceries as I know many of them do in my small town of Bellwood and put them on the cuff but let him walk into Safeway, let him walk into A & P stores and he had better have cash on the barrel because salt water tears won't buy any groceries and it certainly won't buy any meat, and Senator Mahoney who represents the little man and who says the Congress was wise, I say, Senator Mahoney, the Congress was weak. It is not the first time the Congress has done so. The Congress has lacked backbone many times. They have many opportunities to regulate industry and business and agriculture and the laboring man, but when the real muscle gets to them, they hide and they hunker down and they run for cover. Now I have said, as I realize, there are many problems with the bill. We recognize that we cannot control interstate commerce. We recognize that there are problems with the bill. I had no intention of pursuing the bill except for the fact that I had promised individuals that I would hold the bill until they came up with desirable amendments. Those amendments were not forthcoming. Those amendments did not come forth until last Friday morning when the bill came up after having been bracketed several times. The bill came up for discussion again. I had the choice at that time of either asking that it be bracketed or asking that we discuss the bill, knowing full well that to delay is to defeat, to delay is to confuse, to delay, in Senator Mahoney's case in this instance, is to win and Senator Mahoney knows that. He is very adept at it and he is going to win, no doubt, but he is not going to win by default. He is going to win standing on the floor taking full credit as the spokesman for the chain stores and he is going to take the full blame as being against the consumer who must pay cash for her groceries. He is going to tell the housewife that is all right with Senator Mahoney. You can pay cash on the barrel when you buy your groceries but we are going to give the chain store all the time they please and